Modernisation of Textile Mills

267. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of loans and the cost of fiscal and other concessions granted to the textile mills for their modernisation or revival during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) what is the number of mills which were modernised and actually revived and the number of workers who actually benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Under the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme (TMFS), the amount of loans sanctioned to the textile mills for their modernisation during the Seventh Five Year Plan period is to the tune of Rs. 1367 crores while the actual disbursement was Rs. 783.84 crores.

(b) 357 mills have been sanctioned assistance. Out of these 291 mills of reported by IDBI, have commenced utilisation of assistance. It is difficult to indicate actual number of workers benefited during the Scheme because the assistance is exclusively to the mills.

Excess charge for cotton yarn from Handloom Weavers

268. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the handloom weavers have to pay for cotton yarn 30 per cent extra over and above the price of yarn paid by composite mills for the manufacture of cloth; and

(b) if so, what arrangements have been made to ensure supply of yarn to handloom weavers at prices at which it is available to composite mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The yarn consumed by composite mills and the yarn consumed by handloom weavers are not comparable for the purpose of prices. Government maintains record of yarn prices delivered for civil consumption only.

(b) Does not arise.

Discontent against handing over of Tin Bigha to Bangladesh

269. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing discontent against handing over 'Tin Bigha' land to Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir; the Government are aware of discontent in the Kuchlibari area and elsewhere regarding this matter.

(b) The 1974 Agreement signed between the Government of India and Bangladesh provides for the leasing in perpatuity to Bangladesh of an area measuring 178 into 85 metres near Tin Bigha in Cooch Behar District of West Bengal. This is for the purpose of connecting the Bangladesh enclave of Dahagram and Angarkota with the Bangladesh maintained so as to enable the Bangladesh Government to exercise their sovereignty over Dahagram and Angarpota. The 1982 Agreement provides the Terms on the basis of which the lease would be implemented

There is no handing over or cession of land involved in the leasing of Tin

Bigha Corridor to Bangladesh. As stipulated in 1982 Agreement, sovereignty over the leased area shall contiue to vest in India.

The residents of Kuchlibari and others as also Indian officials and law enforcing agencies will continue to have the right of free and unfetterred movement in the leased area in either direction.

Production of coal and its price

270. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of coal production so far during this year and what is the expected target and whether it would fulfil the requirement of our economy;

(b) whether it is a fact that coal contains ash; if so, what is the percentage thereof; and

(c) what was the price of the coal on the day of nationalisation and what is the price today indicating the reasons for such differences in prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) All India coal production during the period April, 91 to October, 91 was of the order of 111.29 million tonnes. The target for coal production for the year 1991-92 has been fixed at 228.00 m.t. The anticipated demand for 1991-92 is 239.10 m.t., which will be more or less met from the current production and stocks which stood at approximately 42 m.t. as on 1.4.91. Some requirements of steel sector for high quality coking coal will have to be met by imports.

(b) Yes, Sir. Indian coals generally have high ash content and low calorific value. The average ash content of coal being mined presently varies between 35 per cent to 45 per cent.

(c) With relation to coal produced by Coal India Limited mines, the average pit need price of coal at the time of nationalisation in 1974 and 1975 was Rs. 37.50 per tonne and the average pit head price at present is Rs. 249/- per tonne. The increase in prices is mainly due to (i) increased wage cost (ii) increase in input cost etc.

Tourists from USA and European countries warned not to visit India

271. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that USA and some European countries have warned their citizens not be visit India; and

(b) fi so, what are details including the steps taken by Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Travel advisories are generally issued by the foreign Governments on the basis of reported events of law and order problems. The matter has already been taken up with the respective Governments through diplomatic channels.

Increase in Visa Fee

272. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHR KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether visa fee has been increased recently;